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October 27, 1899

1876

condition. The shipping is free from all contagion and the regular line steamships are kept in an excellent sanitary condition.

Respectfully, yours,
SAML. H. HODGSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.
The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

PARAGUAY.

Peculiar disease at Asuncion.

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, *September 12, 1899.*

SIR: Inclosed herewith is a copy of a letter from United States Consul John N. Ruffin, at Asuncion, Paraguay, referring to the epidemic prevailing in that city.

Respectfully, yours,
WILLIAM R. FINCH.
Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure.]

ASUNCION, PARAGUAY, *September 5, 1899.*

SIR: There is a kind of disease existing here said to be peculiar to Paraguay. It seems that the physicians do not know what it is. It kills in forty-eight hours; if not, after that time there is hope. It is said to take the glands; that is causes them to swell. It seems to have its origin in filth, and began in the soldier barracks which are said to be exceedingly filthy. At present a bacteriological analysis is being made. In a few days it is hoped a scientific opinion will be reached. Schools have been dismissed to-day to be cleaned and painted inside; the Government buildings are undergoing the same process. The soldiers from that part of the barracks which was affected will be sent outside the city. The hospital papers announce 11 sick soldiers, 8 convalescing and 3 still very low.

Don't think the disease will develop or increase. Daily reports are being made. There is as yet no cause for alarm. Should there be any, will telegraph.

Yours, truly,
JOHN N. RUFFIN,
United States Consul.

NOTE.—Will the *Wilmington* come up here? Will you come with the *Wilmington*?
Hon. WM. R. FITCH, *United States Minister, Montevideo.*

RUSSIA.

Investigation as to the nature of the disease at Kolobovka.

ST. PETERSBURG, *Septemher 29, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy and translation of an official communication giving an account of a medical conference held on September 3–15 last to determine the nature of the malady which recently broke out in the village of Kolobovka, government of Astrakhan, and also a copy and translation of a telegram from His Highness Prince Alexander of Oldenberg, dated September 12–24 last, concerning the sanitary condition of that village. These communications were sent to this embassy from the imperial foreign office in notes dated September 10–22 and September 14–26, respectively.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

HERBERT H. D. PEIRCE,
Chargé d' Affaires ad interim.

Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.